MARVEL
14
LGY#179
THE WAR OF THE REALMS
VENOM
BUNN
COELLO
MOSSA

THE WAR OF THE REALMS

After laying waste to nine of the Ten Realms, the Dark Elf King Malekith and his powerful allies have finally brought the War of the Realms to Midgard — the last realm standing!

Malekith opened a portal to New York—where Eddie Brock and his son, Dylan, have just arrived. Now Frost Giants and Dark Elves roam the streets, and Eddie—no longer bonded with the alien symbiote Venom—was offered a dream stone from the war witches. Now Eddie must battle his way through Malekith's army...including the menacing Jack O'Lantern!

VENOM

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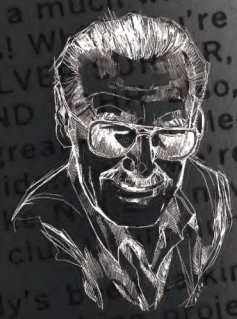
STAN'S SOAPBOX
JULY 1968

STAN'S SOAPBOX!

We sometimes receive letters accusing us of publishing too many different titles. A number of fans have said it's too expensive trying to buy all our mags, and they ask us not to be so greedy, and to publish less of 'em. So, we thought you might like to hear OUR side of it. The only reason we constantly add new titles is because YOU ask for them. Thousands upon thousands of your letters demanded that we give Cap, Shell-Head, Namor, and all the others their own magazines. In fact, remember when we tried to discontinue the Hulk some years ago? Your unceasing outcry forced us to bring him back, despite the fact that it imposed a tremendous strain upon our already overworked staff. And each time we try to publish fewer 25¢ summer Specials, you swamp us with letters demanding more than ever. Personally, we'd be happy to let up a bit. Many of us, including yours truly, haven't had a vacation in years! But, our policy was, is, and always will be to give Marveldom what it asks for, and judging by our ever-skyrocketing sales, we're not far from the mark. That's the lowdown, loyal one. We don't want you to spend all your bread on our mags, honest. But, so long as the dramatic demand for them continues, we can't turn a deaf ear. Anyway, remember this: no matter how many stories we create each month, our credo will always be the same — Nil Nisi Optimus — nothing but the best!

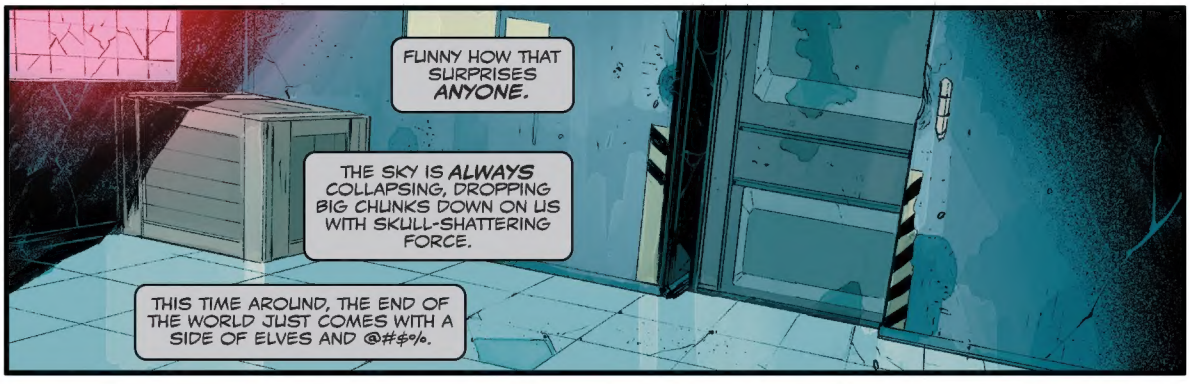
Excelsior!

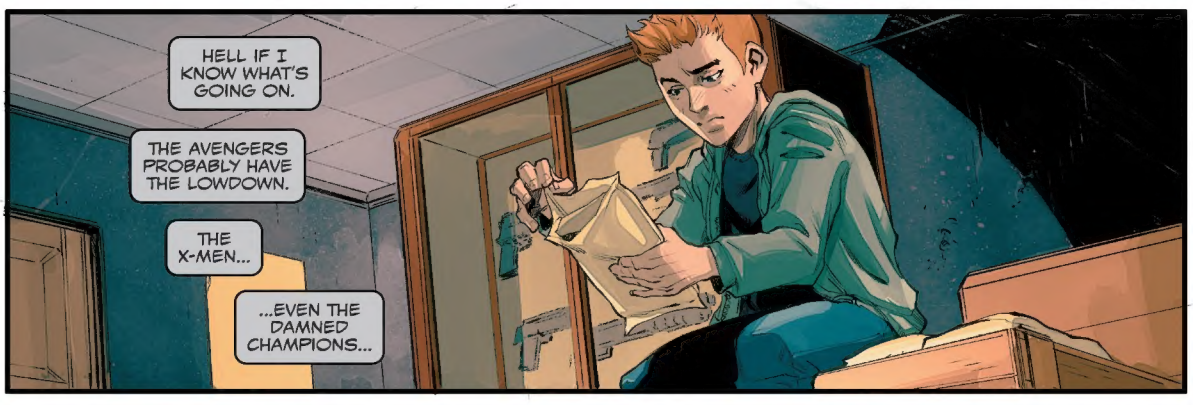
—Smiley

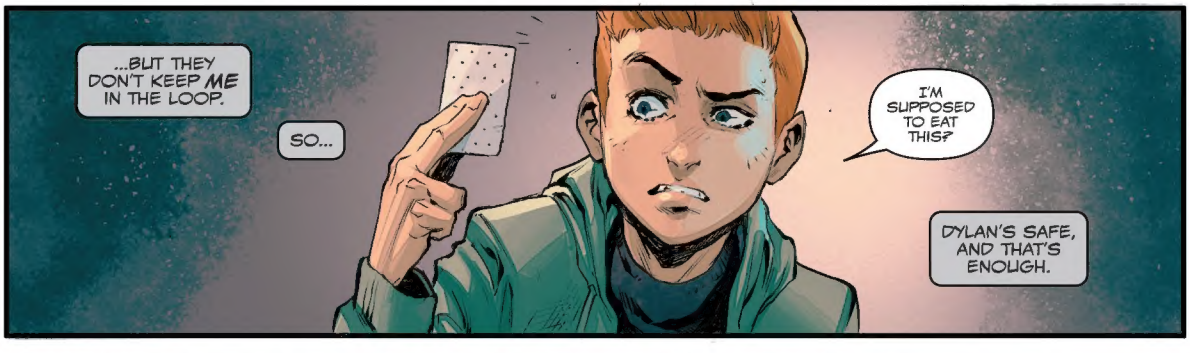


STAN LEE
FOREVER

GOTTA REMIND MYSELF...THE KID'S SAFE. DYLAN IS SAFE.
THERE ARE OTHER PEOPLE WHO NEED MY HELP.
OTHERS WHO ARE AFRAID BECAUSE THE SKY IS FALLING.


FUNNY HOW THAT SURPRISES ANYONE.
THE SKY IS ALWAYS COLLAPSING, DROPPING BIG CHUNKS DOWN ON US WITH SKULL-SHATTERING FORCE.
THIS TIME AROUND, THE END OF THE WORLD JUST COMES WITH A SIDE OF ELVES AND @#$%.


HELL IF I KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON.
THE AVENGERS PROBABLY HAVE THE LOWDOWN.
THE X-MEN...
...EVEN THE DAMNED CHAMPIONS...


...BUT THEY DON'T KEEP ME IN THE LOOP.
SO...
I'M SUPPOSED TO EAT THIS?
DYLAN'S SAFE, AND THAT'S ENOUGH.

HE JUST NEEDS TO KEEP HIS HEAD DOWN...
...TO WAIT...

...FOR THE MONSTERS TO GO AWAY.
SKREEOONNKK
WHAT IS THAT THING?
IS IT SAVING US?
WHO CARES? JUST-- RUN!
MONSTERS... LIKE ME.
THE SUIT MAY LOOK SORTA LIKE AN ALIEN SYMBIOTE...
...BUT IT WAS GIVEN TO ME BY SOME OLD WITCH WHO WANTED TO USE ME AS A WEAPON.
I NEED ANGER TO KEEP ME... TO KEEP THE SUIT...MOVING.
I GOTTA STAY PISSED.

SHOULD BE EASY ENOUGH.

WA-THOOOM

ROXXON.

BIG-TIME CORPORATION WITH THEIR OWN PRIVATE ARMY.

THEY COULD BE HOLDING THE LINE AGAINST THE SWORD-AND-SORCERY TYPES.

THEY COULD BE ***HELPING.***

INSTEAD, THEY'RE USING THEIR MILITARY-GRADE HARDWARE TO ***CLEAR A PATH*** FOR MIDDLE-EARTH.

OH...OH, GOD!

IT'S ***VENOM!***

H-HE TORE UP MY TANK!

WORKS FOR ME.

GOT NO USE FOR BIG BUSINESS @#$% EVEN DURING THE ***BEST*** OF TIMES.

ROXXON GETS THE BENEFIT OF ALL MY ***BAD MEMORIES.***

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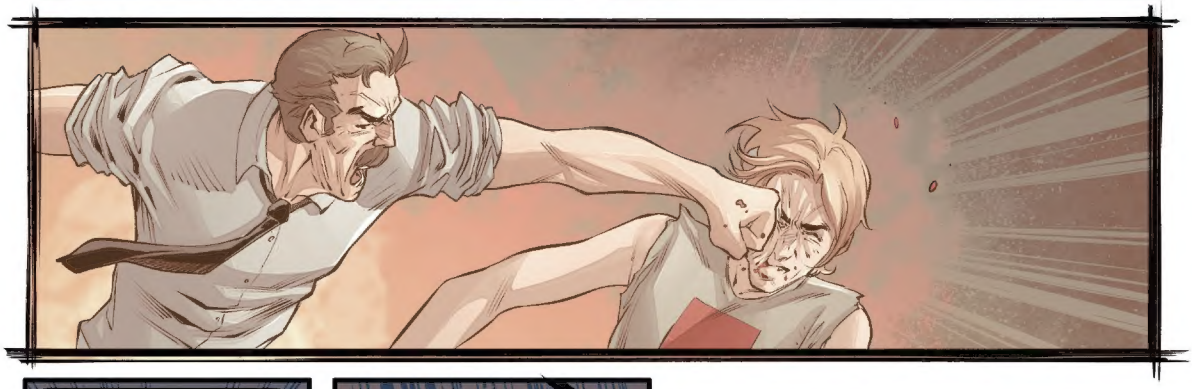
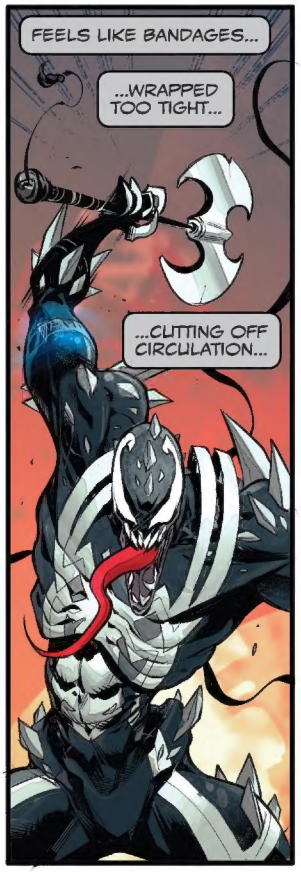
SHRAAANK
ALL THE NASTINESS I'VE ENDURED... CHANNELED INTO THE SUIT.
MAKE IT WORK FOR ME FOR A CHANGE.
MOVE! MOVE! MOVE!
GET CLEAR BEFORE--
KILL, KILL, KILL.
THE MESSAGE THROBS IN MY SKULL LIKE A BLOOD PRESSURE HEADACHE.
IT'S LIKE A BABY BIRD BEGGING FOR FOOD.
THUNK TH-THUNK THUNK
WANTS ME TO FEED IT.

TOO FAR ONE WAY, I'M SLOW, SLUGGISH, NEAR USELESS.
MAYDAY! MAYDAY!
TOO FAR THE OTHER-- AND WHO KNOWS WHAT I'LL BECOME?

EVERY PASSING SECOND, THE SUIT'S CHANGING.
P-PLEASE... JUST DOING MY JOB...
IT'S NOT WHAT I DREAMED UP TO BEGIN WITH.




FEELS LIKE BANDAGES...
...WRAPPED TOO TIGHT...
...CUTTING OFF CIRCULATION...

...CUTTING OFF EVERYTHING...
...BUT RAGE.
SCHUNK

THWOOOSH
ARRRGGH!

OOOOH. DID THAT HURT?
LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT.
YOU USED AN ELVEN ARTIFACT TO GIVE YOURSELF THE SUIT OF YOUR DREAMS.
ALL THE STRENGTH, THE FEROCITY, THE POWER.
AND--EVEN WITH THE BREADTH OF YOUR IMAGINATION AT HAND--YOU STILL MADE YOURSELF VULNERABLE TO FIRE.
I BET THAT SAYS SOMETHING ABOUT YOU, HUH?
JACK O'LANTERN.
MISS ME?
HIS POWERS HAVE BEEN AUGMENTED LIKE MINE.
GUESS THAT OLD WITCH HAS BEEN BUSY.

FRRAASH
HE'S NOT THE FIRST LOWLIFE TO WEAR THE OL' PUMPKIN HEAD.
JUST SOME PUNK WHO STUMBLED ONTO A SUPER VILLAIN'S DISCARDED GEAR.
LAST TIME I RAN INTO HIM, I LEFT HIM BLEEDING AND SCREAMING IN AN ALLEY.*
RNN--
*WAY BACK IN VENOM #1, TRUE BELIEVERS! --DEV
GONNA TAKE YOUR EYE, MEATHEAD.
JUST LIKE YOU TOOK MINE.
SHOULDA FINISHED HIM OFF.
SIC 'EM.

RAAWHF! RAAAGH!
DOGS!
THE BASTARD BROUGHT DOGS WITH HIM!
NOT JUST DOGS--BUT SOME SORT OF FANTASY-WORLD HELLHOUNDS!
CATCH ME IF YOU CAN, ASSHAT!
I LIKE DOGS.
BUT IT DOESN'T MAKE A BIT OF DIFFERENCE.
THE SUIT GETS WHAT THE SUIT WANTS.

JACK'S PLAYING GAMES.

LEADING ME ON A *MERRY CHASE.*

HE'S NEVER BEEN THE STAND-UP-AND-FIGHT SORT. NOT HIM OR ANY OF THE OTHER JACK O'LANTERNS.

LET HIM RUN.

I'LL FIND HIM.

AS LONG AS HE DOESN'T LEAD ME TOO FAR FROM THE SAFE HOUSE...TOO FAR FROM DYLAN.

NO.

SUIT *HATES* THE TASTE OF *CONCERN.*

OF...

...WHATEVER THE HELL I'M FEELING.

FOCUS ON THE *BAD* TIMES INSTEAD. FOCUS ON--

UNNGH!

SMASH

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UH-OH!

LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE'S ABOUT TO GET **BUM RUSHED.**

FEE FI FO FUM.

I KNOW THREE DUDES WHO'RE GONNA **SQUISH** VE-NOM.

JACK'S GOT A LOT OF FRIENDS.

BIG ONES.

KRA-THAK

HHHT!

NOT SO TOUGH WHEN YOU'RE **NOT** THE BIGGEST GUY IN THE FIGHT, ARE YOU?

SLLSH

GAAAH!

GONNA NEED A **BIGGER AX.**

HAHAHAHA HAHAHAHA

AH, THE WEE MAN'S GOT HIMSELF SOME TOYS!

WATCH YOURSELF, BOYS!

HE MIGHT **SCRATCH** US!

GIANTS.

TOO BIG TO FIGHT.

AT LEAST... LIKE THIS.

AND JUST LIKE THAT, I CAN FEEL THE WITCH'S MAGIC SURGING THROUGH ME. THROUGH MY **BONES.**

PLUMMING MY PSYCHE--MY **MEMORIES**--FOR WHATEVER IT WAS THAT MADE VENOM, **VENOM.**

AND I **FEEL** IT. NOT JUST THE MAGIC STRETCHING MY FRAME, BREAKING AND HEALING MY BONES A THOUSAND TIMES OVER IN A SECOND...

ALL THE PAIN.

THE HATE.

JEALOUSY.

HUMILIATION.

BETRAYAL.

THAT'LL WORK.

SUIT WANTS RAGE?
WANTS DARKNESS?
RAAAAGGH!
I'VE GOT PLENTY TO SPARE.
SGGGKKLT
THOUGHT MY ALIEN SYMBIOTE WAS THE ONE CORRUPTING ME ALL THIS TIME...
...NOW I'M NOT SO SURE.
MMM. MINTY.

FEELS...
REVENGE
...GOOD.
PUTTING ALL THE BAD THINGS THAT HAVE HAPPENED TO ME...
...THE DEFEATS, THE FAILURES, THE SCREWUPS...
...TO USE FOR A CHANGE.
DOING SOMETHING PRODUCTIVE WITH ALL THE NEGATIVITY.
SHRP
GLGKT
SHAGKT
ALMOST FEELS... FUN!
SHRA-BOOM

YOU DIDN'T FORGET ABOUT LITTLE OL' ME, DID YOU, BIG FELLA?
BOOM
HEEHA HAHEEHAA HEE!
MISSED ME!
SUIT'S SLOW. I CAN FEEL IT.
BOOM
RRRRR--
YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY...
...THE STUPIDER THEY ARE...
...THE HARDER THEY FALL!

BURNS!

RIGHT DOWN TO THE BONE!

DOWN MY THROAT!

CAN FEEL THE MAGIC WORKING OVERTIME TO PROTECT ME!

CAN FEEL IT BURNING THROUGH THE ***ABILITIES*** IT LEARNED FROM MEMORIES OF THE SYMBIOTE.

TO ***HEAL.***

YOU DON'T GO THROUGH THE FIRE...

...NOT LIKE THIS...

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...AND REMAIN UNCHANGED.
THIS IS...DIFFERENT. NOT A LIVING SUIT ANYMORE.
A SUIT OF ASGARDIAN ARMOR.
YOU JUST DON'T KNOW WHEN TO QUIT, DO YOU?
Y'KNOW... IF I HAD MY DRUTHERS, I'D END YOU RIGHT NOW.
SADLY, I HAVE PROMISES TO KEEP.
AND A LOT MORE TORMENT TO INFLICT.
I'M COOKING UP SOMETHING YOU'RE REALLY GONNA LOVE!

YES, YES.
DREAMS FEED ON WRATH!
WRATH TURNS TO FLESH AND BLOOD!
FLESH AND BLOOD TO SERVE AS MALEKITH'S WAR PUPPET!
"PUPPET"?
I HOPE YOU DON'T THINK OF ME IN THOSE TERMS, LADY.
JACK O'LANTERN'S HIS OWN MAN.
RIGHT NOW, YOUR GOALS AND MINE SYNC UP.
LET'S KEEP IT THAT WAY.
BOLD WORDS FROM A MAN WHO WAS, UNTIL I FOUND HIM, HIDING IN HIS WARREN IN FEAR.
FINISH THE TASK I'VE SET BEFORE YOU.
FINISH AND WE CAN BE DONE WITH EACH OTHER.
"THE MORE VENOM FIGHTS...THE MORE A WARRIOR OF MALEKITH HE BECOMES!"
YOU REALLY GOT IT BAD FOR THIS MALEKITH, HUH?
HOLD YOUR BLASPHEMOUS TONGUE!
VENOM CARES FOR THE INNOCENT!
HE PROTECTS THEM--AND ONE IN PARTICULAR!
THEY KEEP HIM ROOTED TO HIS HUMANITY!
DON'T WORRY.
Y'SEE--VENOM TAUGHT ME SOMETHING I'M GONNA PUT TO GOOD USE.
HE TAUGHT ME--

--TO THINK BIG!

BURN!

BURN IT ALL!

BURN IT DOWN!

JACK'S TORCHING EVERYTHING IN SIGHT.

ROASTING ANYONE IN HIS PATH.

HE'LL TURN THE ENTIRE DISTRICT TO *ASH.*

AAAAHHHHH!

UNLESS I GO A LITTLE... *BERSERK.*

RAAAGGH!

THE KID'S GONNA BE ALL RIGHT.
I'LL MAKE SURE OF IT.
HE JUST NEEDS TO KEEP HIS HEAD DOWN...
GETTING... WARM IN HERE.
...TO WAIT...
...FOR THE MONSTERS TO GO AWAY.
TO BE CONTINUED...

NEXT MONTH:
VENOM #15